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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Yasuji HIRAMATSU et al.

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/JP01/03757

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REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

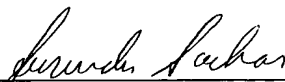
Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application for patent, notice is hereby given that the applicant claims as priority:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>APPLICATION NO</u>	<u>DAY/MONTH/YEAR</u>
Japan	2000-133534	02 May 2000
Japan	2000-305175	04 October 2000

Certified copies of the corresponding Convention application(s) were submitted to the International Bureau in PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/03757. Receipt of the certified copy(s) by the International Bureau in a timely manner under PCT Rule 17.1(a) has been acknowledged as evidenced by the attached PCT/IB/304.

Respectfully submitted,
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